

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 /086 W

-----099592 141842Z /45

R 140935Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1192

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ET, US

SUBJ: STATUS OF UPPER DIDESSA PROJECT WITHIN ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1150

1. DURING MY CALL MAR 9 ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH HIM STATUS OF UPPER DIDESSA PROJECT. BERHANE SAID THAT AFTER CONVERSATION WITH AID DIRECTOR LYMAN, HE HAD SOUGHT ACTIVELY TO PUSH ETHIOPIAN BUREAUCRACY TO MAKE SOME DECISION ABOUT PROJECT. HE HAD PERSONALLY SPOKEN WITH BOTH MINISTER AND PERMSEC OF FINANCE AND PERMSEC OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE COMPARED BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEM, WHICH HE CON- TENDED EXISTED BETWEEN DIFFERENT MINISTRIES, TO SIMILAR ONES WHICH AROSE BETWEEN US STATE DEPT AND PENTAGON. HE SAID THAT ISSUE HAD NOW BEEN RAISED TO DIRG LEVEL AND THAT DECISION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE END OF MONTH.

2. I THANKED BERHANE FOR HIS EFFORTS TO DATE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS ASSURANCES ABOUT DECISION ON UPPER DIDESSA PROJECT WOULD PROVE ACCURATE AND THAT DECISION WOULD BE FAVORABLE.

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3. SUBSEQUENT TO MY CONVERSATION WITH BERHANE I WAS INFORMED MAR 11 BY HIS DEPUTY THAT IN LIGHT OF ENORMOUS RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION ANTICIPATED IN OGADEN AREA, ETHIOPIAN GOVT WAS IN PROCESS OF REORDERING ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES. BERHANE'S DEPUTY SAID THIS COULD EFFECT DECISION ON UPPER DIDESSA PRO-

JECT. I TOLD HIM THAT AS TO OGADEN, THERE WERE SOME INDICATIONS THAT USG MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION THERE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE WAR AND THAT UPPER DIDESSA PROJECT NEED NOT BE SEEN AS DIMINISHING FUTURE USG SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO OGADENI POPULATION.

4. BUREAUCRATIC EXCUSE OFFERED BY BERHANE DERESSE IS WEARING THIN SINCE OFFICIALS SEEM TO HAVE NO TROUBLE SORTING OUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNIST STATES, E.G. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH EAST GERMANS ON IMPROVEMENT ASSAB PORT FACILITIES. EMBASSY IS INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT UPPER DIDESSA PROPOSED APPROVAL IS POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN MODERATES WHO FAVOR US ASSISTANCE AND RADICALS WHO OPPOSE IT ON POLITICAL GROUNDS.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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